



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Bureau of Automotive Repair Celebrates Earth Day 2011

SACRAMENTO – Earth Day has grown into a global tradition, more than a billion people are expected to participate in events today, making Earth Day the most widely celebrated environmental event.

At the California Department of Consumer Affairs/Bureau of Automotive Repair (DCA/BAR) our mission is to protect the planet by promoting clean air every day.

“Earth Day is a good time to remind Californians of the importance of keeping up with their vehicle’s scheduled maintenance checks,” says BAR Chief Sherry Mehl. “It not only saves them money in the long run but also helps improve our state’s air quality by reducing vehicle emissions.”

Every day, thousands of poorly maintained vehicles travel California's streets and highways. These vehicles are often the greatest contributors to air pollution. In fact, a poorly maintained vehicle can release as much as ten times the emissions of a well-maintained vehicle of the same make and model. Engaging in proper vehicle care and maintenance so vehicles run cleaner means we can all breathe cleaner, healthier air.

The BAR was established in 1972 to educate consumers about the Automotive Repair Act. Since then, we have instituted a number of programs to assist consumers to reduce air pollution produced by motor vehicles.

In addition to the Smog Check Program, BAR has partnered with the Department of Toxics and Substances Control to recognize stations and shops that engage in environmentally-friendly practices as part of their normal business. These practices range from recycling used oil and coolants to using water-based parts cleaners instead of solvents.

The goal of the Green Station Program is to encourage repair facilities to be more responsible in the proper handling and disposal of the toxic substances generated during the course of their business. The program also reduces exposure to hazardous chemicals and potential ground pollution leading to a cleaner environment.

To find a Green Station near you visit our Web site at
http://www.autorepair.ca.gov/80_BARResources/GreenProgram/Green%20Station%20List.pdf.

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Here are a few quick tips you can do yourself to not only save money but protect our environment as well:

1. **Check Your Air Filter** – A clean air filter can improve gas mileage by as much as 10 percent and nearly one in four cars needs an air filter replacement. Changing a dirty air filter according to manufacturer's recommendations can save the equivalent of 28 cents a gallon or take you approximately 23 more miles on a typical tank of gas.
2. **Pump 'Em Up** – More than one-quarter of all vehicles have improperly inflated tires. The average under inflation of 7.5 pounds causes a loss of 2.8 percent in fuel efficiency. Properly inflating problem tires is like knocking 8 cents off a gallon of gas.
3. **Get in Tune** – A properly tuned engine can improve mileage by 4 percent which creates favorable gas-by-the-gallon savings.

Let's all do our part to help keep the air we breathe clean and healthy.

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The Department of Consumer Affairs promotes and protects the interests of California Consumers. Consumers who wish to file a complaint against an auto repair facility can contact the Department of Consumer Affairs/Bureau of Automotive Repair at (800) 952-5210. Consumers can also file a complaint online at www.autorepair.ca.gov.